



State of Arizona

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Brewer Calls on Feds to Fulfill Prior Funding Commitments on Border Costs

President's Budget for SCAAP Fails to Reimburse Arizona For Federal Border Obligations

PHOENIX – President Obama continued the federal government's failure to assume responsibility for our broken borders, proposing to give to states only a fraction of money it costs to house criminal aliens in Arizona prisons, Governor Jan Brewer said Thursday.

Contained within the President's \$3.8 trillion budget is a provision to partially fund the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP). However, Governor Brewer said, the amount falls far short of the federal government's responsibility for the 6,100 criminal aliens in state prisons now. Federal law obligates the federal government to cover these expenses, but federal appropriations have fallen dramatically short.

"Even though President Obama is proposing the largest budget ever, he cannot find the political will to pay for the federal government's border responsibilities," Brewer said. "Arizona remains in the grips of a budget crisis in large part due to unfunded commitments that should be paid in full by the federal government."

This is not the first time Governor Brewer has expressed her disappointment in the federal government's border failures. Governor Brewer personally spoke to the President regarding SCAAP funding when he visited Arizona on May 13 last year. The President's new budget includes \$330 million for the SCAAP funding for all 50 states and local jurisdictions. The State of Arizona alone is owed roughly \$700 million in costs that legally qualify for federal reimbursement.

Obama's disappointing budget comes as Brewer announced she will transfer to federal custody as many criminal aliens as allowed under current law. The state has transferred custody of

approximately 100 criminal aliens to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency since January.

“Arizona taxpayers should no longer bear the huge costs of incarcerating criminal aliens, and this most recent budget proposal wouldn’t cover the costs owed to Arizona, much less the entire United States,” Governor Brewer said. “I will continue to work with the Arizona congressional delegation and other border state governors to encourage the federal government to pay its bills.”

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